

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A user recognition system to identify a user and enable access to instruments associated with at least one implanted medical device, the system comprising:
 - an implanted medical device in a patient;
 - an instrument in data communications with the implanted medical device; and
 - the user recognition system for submitting biometric traits of the user implemented in said instrument.
2. The system of claim 1 wherein said implanted medical device includes one of a pacer, a defibrillator, a drug delivery device and a neural implant.
3. The system of claim 1 wherein said instrument includes one of a programmer, a PSA and a home monitor.
4. The system of claim 1 wherein said user recognition system includes at least one of a finger scanner, a camera and a microphone.
5. The system of claim 4 wherein said biometric traits include a finger scan obtained from said finger scanner.
6. The system of claim 4 wherein said biometric traits include an iris/retina scan obtained via said camera.
7. The system of claim 4 wherein said biometric traits include a voice print obtained from said microphone.
8. A biometric-based user authentication system for identifying and granting access to at least one user to an implanted medical device in a patient associated with an instrument, the authentication system comprising:
 - at least one biometric sensor implemented in the instrument;

at least one biometric trait of a user stored as coded data in a memory bank of said biometric sensor; and

means for analyzing and comparing said at least one biometric trait with said coded data to grant or deny access.

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9. The system of claim 8 wherein said at least one biometric sensor includes at least one of a camera, a finger print sensor and a microphone.

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10. The system of claim 8 wherein said at least one biometric trait of a user includes a fingerprint, a voice print, an iris/retinal print, a facial model, a veinal imprint and a digital signature.

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11. The system of claim 8 wherein said means for analyzing and comparing includes a software system implemented in the memory bank of the biometric sensor.

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12. The system of claim 8 wherein said biometric traits of a user stored as coded data includes instructions to allow a user with matching biometric traits to have access to a pre-determined set of data and tools of said implanted medical device.

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13. A method for a biometric-based identification of a user to provide authorized access to operational hardware, software and patient medical data contained in instruments and implanted medical devices, the method comprising:

accepting at least one biometric trait from a potential user;

comparing said at least one biometric trait to a stored coded data; and

granting a qualified access when a match is confirmed between said at least one biometric trait and the stored coded data.

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14. The method of claim 13 wherein said qualified access includes a hierarchical scheme to enable user-specific access and authorization based on expertise and need.

